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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/645,071	08/23/2000	Patrick Englebienne	REDL-002	2670

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EXAMINER

NOLAN, PATRICK J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1644

DATE MAILED: 07/23/2003

15

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/645,071

Applicant(s)

Englebienne et al.

Examiner

Patrick J. Nolan

Art Unit

1644



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jun 23, 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) 11-25 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

Part III DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-25 are pending.
2. Claims 11-25 stand withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to non-elected inventions, for reasons set forth in Paper No. 6.
3. Applicant's after-final received 6-23-03, has been entered. The Finality of the last office action is removed and new grounds of rejections are set forth below.

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for measuring an increase in the 37 kDal RNase L level and correlating said increase to diagnosing CFS and wherein an increase in RNase L levels correlate to a decrease in caspase activity, does not reasonably provide enablement for detecting 37 kDal RNase L fragment or caspase activity and diagnosing any chronic immune disease. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most clearly connected, to use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

The state of the art at the time the invention was made, The Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy, teaches there are many different molecules known to be diagnostic for diverse set of autoimmune disorders, and does not recognize any one molecule to be diagnostic for all chronic immune disease, especially MS. Furthermore, Applicant specification provides no working examples demonstrating the usefulness of the 37 kDal RNase L fragment in diagnosing any and all chronic immune diseases. In addition, in Table 1, it is clear that only when there are high enough levels of the 37 kDal RNase L fragment do caspase activities significantly decrease in CFS patients, so one of skill in the art would not expect that by merely detecting caspase levels would one be able to diagnose CFS, especially in light of the specifications teachings that the 37 kDal RNase L fragment inhibits caspase activity, which potentially leads to reduced apoptosis and CFS.

Therefore, in light of the teachings of the prior art and the specifications lack of working examples or guidance it would be

Serial Number: 09/645,071
Art Unit: 1644

3

unpredictable and require an undue amount of experimentation to practice the full scope of the claimed invention.

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:


A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --
(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)(2) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,985,565. (AE on the IDS submitted 11-17-2000).

The '565 patent teaches detecting CFS in PBMC by detecting a Rnase L fragment of 37 Kdal that binds 2'-5'-oligoadenylate (see claims 20-22 and column 15, lines 46-52 in particular). The prior art teaching anticipates the claimed invention.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrick Nolan whose telephone number is (703) 305-1987. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm.

8. If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan, can be reached at (703) 305-3973. The FAX number for our group, 1644, is (703) 305-7401. Any inquiry of a general nature relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist, whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.


Patrick J. Nolan, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner, Group 1640
July 21, 2003